

BOBCAT NEWS

BUCKLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Believe it or not, October is here already! September was very quick and very busy! I hope everyone has had a smooth start to the school year.

As you know, Manchester Public Schools is fully committed to the Common Core State Standards. These standards are ideal for students to learn 21st century skills and they also prepare our students for college or career readiness.

In addition, Manchester Public Schools has embraced the workshop model for literacy and numeracy. By teaching in a workshop model, teachers will teach to all our students in explicit instruction and using best teaching practices to support student achievement. I thought it would be helpful to all parents/guardians to provide an overview of our classroom teaching focus. Specifically, our teachers will focus on the following with respect to literacy and numeracy:

Reader's Workshop

Reading workshop is incorporated within the teacher's daily schedule. The schedule will include Oral Language, Read Aloud, Reading Workshop, Word Study, and Shared Reading. In short, the workshop will begin with a whole class mini-lesson with one specific focus. This will last for approximately 10 minutes. After, students will then engage in independent reading, partner reading and discussions about books. In addition, during this time, teachers will be meeting with students in guided reading and strategy groups and also conferring with students about their reading. At the end of the lesson, students will meet together and the teacher will conclude his/her lesson. It should be noted that the goal is to have students read as much as they can!

Math Workshop

Math instruction is a balance of building procedural and conceptual understanding; whole group and small group instruction; and teacher-directed and student-focused. The math workshop model is a structured approach to teaching and learning, where students own the learning and teachers guide the learning. The math workshop model is a research-based, balanced approach to mathematics instruction. Moreover, as Niki Newton has stated "The goal of the [workshop model] is for students to become proficient mathematicians who have conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, strategic competence, adaptive reasoning and mathematical confidence. Guided math aims to get students comfortable with numbers, operations, and mathematical concepts so they can independently work with them in new and different contexts. In guided math groups students can work on developing content knowledge and "habits of mind" and "ways of doing" math" (Newton, 2013).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mrs. Julie Tjagvad either through email or calling 860-647-3302. In addition, our literacy and numeracy coaches would be more than helpful as well. Our Literacy coach, Mrs. Tammy O'Malley or numeracy coach, Mrs. Lisa Miner, can be reached via email or at 860-647-3302.

Please note that during the first month of school, we accomplished much including the following:

- As a school, we reviewed PBIS expectations with all our students. For example, we taught expected behavior in many areas of our school including classrooms, cafeteria, hallways and buses.
- The PTA held their Back to School Cook Out that was a huge hit! Thank you to the PTA.
- We held our Open Houses in early September. We hope everyone enjoyed seeing the classrooms and meeting your child's teacher.
- In addition, your children have been working very hard in the classrooms. We are currently conducting our Fall assessments. These assessments will drive our instruction in order to best meet the needs of all our students.

As a friendly reminder, we hold emergency drills once a month. These emergency drills include fire drills and lockdown drills. Please know that these drills are meant for practice. <u>I am also including in the newsletter our procedures for drop off and pick up. Please make sure you read this as it is very important.</u>

For your planning purposes, listed below are dates of a few events taking here at Buckley School.

• October 6 School Picture Day!

October 8
 K-3 Fire Prevention Assembly

PTA Meeting @ 6:30

October 9 First School Pep Rally!

• October 16 PTA sponsored event: Book Bingo @ 6:30

October 30
 PTA sponsored event: Movie Night

Finally, I have included in this monthly newsletter a few important documents. This would include our procedures for arrival and dismissal, a letter regarding our work with UCONN last school year and a flyer for Math mornings starting on October 19!

Thank you again for all that you do as we continue to build a strong partnership between school and home. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at school. As a reminder, please follow me on twitter @ Buckley Bobcats. Sincerely,

Matthew Daly

KINDERGARTEN

We are off to a great start in our 2015-2016 school year. The kindergarteners have been very busy learning all about how to be a Buckley Bobcat. We spent time learning our rules and classroom routines. At Buckley School, we are safe, respectful, and responsible. We started our launch units in reading, writing, and math.

In reading, we are learning how to read independently and with a partner in the classroom. We are focusing on reading behaviors, such as sitting in a quiet "bubble" and making sure we do not pop our bubble by making too much noise. We are also exploring our classroom reading centers.

In writing, our focus has been on choosing what to write. We want to write about something we are passionate about. We created writing folders that we decorated with things we love. Our hope is that these folders will help inspire our young writers! In math, we have had the opportunity to explore our manipulatives in the classroom. We are learning how to use these appropriately in math. We can count, sort, and compare using our manipulatives. Our focus is on numbers 0-5. We spend a lot of time on these numbers helping students gain a strong understanding. We compare using terms such as more and less. We also explore all of the ways that we can show these numbers (number writing, number words, and various arrangements of objects, using a five frame).

The kindergarten team would like to thank all of you for all of your help and support. It has been a smooth transition into the new school year. We are excited to work with your children and watch them learn and grow.

Thank you! — Mrs. Hoffman, Ms. Lavallee, and Ms. Adams

FIRST GRADE

We are off to a wonderful start in First Grade! It was delightful to meet so many family members during open house. Thank you for taking the time to join us. We have been reviewing a lot of Kindergarten skills and are now working on first grade curriculum. You should be helping your child to read books and the word cards we are sending home. Practice with addition and subtraction facts to 10 would also be very helpful. We appreciate the warm welcome your families have given to our student teachers! We look forward to several weeks of learning with them as they prepare to join the teaching profession! Thank you for all your support!

Thank you! - Mrs. Bourcier & Ms. Seaha; Miss Nelson & Miss Salce

SECOND GRADE

This fall season, the second graders have been practicing their before, during, and after reading strategies through predicting and answering questions such as who, what, where, and when. We have also been engaging in reader's workshop and building up our independent reading stamina. We will be focusing this month to identify the problem and solution within a text (conflict/resolution). Students will also be practicing their story mapping!

In writer's workshop we will be working on developing personal narrative stories. This month we will be working on generating ideas and creating interesting beginnings. We will also develop and elaborate on small moments in preparation for publishing their writing pieces!

In math, we have been working on place value concepts (hundreds, tens, and ones). Through this, the students will be representing numbers in various ways including standard, expanded, model, and written forms. Be sure to ask your child to share their knowledge of this with you! This upcoming month, we will be moving towards adding double digit numbers while using our strategies learned to solve these problems!

We are so proud of the progress our students have been making thus far and look forward to a productive month!

THIRD GRADE

Welcome back! We have a very busy year planned with a brand new Math program called Envision. We will also be working closely with LitLife and our Math/Reading Coaches to introduce the Reading and Writing workshop model.

Homework in third grade consists of twenty minutes of reading three days a week, and a spelling and a math paper on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evening. If a student is having difficulty with a particular part, please write a note on the part they are having trouble with and Mr. Sweetland or Ms. Brown will help the student with that part, but please make sure the student does the rest of the paper. Also, spelling lists come home on Monday, and they will be needed all week, so it might be a good idea to put it in on the fridge or other place where it cannot get lost.

We will also be continuing Writer's Workshop this year. The Writer's Workshop consists of a mini-lesson, guided practice, and a lot of time for individual practice with group sharing occurring at regular intervals. It would be great if you could share with your child about your writing experiences, (Do you write reports at work? Do you journal? Do you make lists? What were your successes at writing or your struggles and how did you overcome them. Etc.) We will be sharing a lot of our own writing with our students as well and we look forward to diving into these new experiences.

In Math, we will be beginning in the Common Core Unit of Place Value, Adding and Subtracting up to the 1000's and Rounding. In Science, we will be having teachers with specialized STEM degrees teaching science to the students. We look forward to sharing with you what the students will be learning. We are very excited to have these highly trained individuals implementing the Inquiry Method to teach science. It should be a great year!

Thank you! — Ms. Brown & Mr. Sweetland

FOURTH GRADE

Our school year is off to a great start! Fourth graders are enjoying the new Envisions program in Math. Right now the children are working on learning how to read and write numbers through a million. They will compare numbers and really begin to understand place value. Later in the month we will be rounding numbers and building our number sense. Mental math and computation play a part in math lessons every day. In the last week of October we will start multiplying two, three, and four digit numbers by one digit numbers.

In Science the children are learning about ecosytems with Ms. Curtin. In Social Studies we are just beginning to look at the five regions of the United States. Our October ELA (reading and writing) units cover realistic fiction. Fourth graders will go in depth with character study and developing believable characters. We'll focus on the classic story arc and students will spend time drafting, revising, and editing their stories. The children are encouraged to devour books from every genre for their independent reading.

Thank you! — Mrs. Godbout & Mrs. Hoke

FIFTH GRADE

It was so nice getting to meet most of you at Open House! Thank you for taking the time to stop in and visit your child's classroom.

We are wrapping up our launch units both in reading and in math and will begin our first curricular units. In reading, we will be exploring chapter books for a variety of topics. In math, we will be working on multiplication and division of whole numbers, and place value. It is so essential that your child know their math facts. Please practice with your child in the car, walking to the bus, in the grocery store, etc. so that they become fluent mathematicians.

Homework is designed to be independent practice of skills learned in school. We take the time to write it in our planners each day and ask that you look it over. It is a perfect place for home/ school communication. It is important for our students to learn to plan for both short and long term assignments and the planner is an ideal tool to help master this skill. This practice prepares them for middle school, so please encourage your child to stay focused and organized with daily assignments.

Independent reading at home is critical to your child's 5th grade reading program. We've talked about finding a perfect place to read and dedicating enough time so that we can build up our stamina. We have all set goals to become better, stronger readers. The more you read, the more you know. The more you know, the more places you'll go!

Thank you! — Mrs. Brahm, Mrs. Adinolfi, & Mrs. Jodoin

COACHES CORNER

Happy Fall! My name is Lisa Miner and I am the Numeracy Coach here at Buckley School. I work closely with classroom teachers to support their work in Mathematics. As we complete the first month of school, I wanted to share that students have been busy learning the structure and routines in the math and reviewing previous learning. This structure is called Math Workshop. Math Workshop allows students to be engaged in rigorous problem solving, rich mathematical discourse, hands-on activities, and meaningful centers to reinforce learning, build deeper understanding, as well as, procedural knowledge and math fluency. You may notice activities and/or homework from enVisions 2.0 which is a new resource that supports Math instruction.

You're invited to attend "Math Mornings with Mrs. Miner" in October to learn more about math strategies that your child is using. Please look for more information coming home soon and get ready to learn some new math strategies. Please Save the Date(s) below!

Session 1: Parents of Children in Grades 1-3: October 19th 9:00-10:00
 Session 2: Parents of Children in Grades 3-5: October 26th 9:00-10:00
 I look forward to seeing you at Buckley School later this month.

Welcome Back to school from Mr. Kolze and Ms. Falkowski. Both have been covering rules and routines of the gym. We have taught the students what to do during a fire drill and a lock down. Students in grades K-2 have been practicing locomotor skills. These skills will help the students move safely through the gym during activities. Locomotor skills were taught through engagement in tag games. K-2 students are now involved in relay activities which help the students learn how to work as teams while being safe, respectful and responsible. Students in grades 3-5 have been engaged in cooperative activities. These activities have enabled the students to problem solve and continue working on their teamwork skills. We have learned the skills needed to work as a team. Grade four has begun training for the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment. As a reminder, please have your children wear sneakers on their scheduled gym day and also have them wear comfortable clothes so their movement is not restricted.





Greetings from the music room! It has been an amazing start to the year - all of the students came in with such great energy! Thank you to all families who stopped into the music room during open house. It is always nice to meet new people and to have a chance to tell you all the exciting things we are doing in class. Kindergartners have had a chance to play three instruments so far - the guiro (it looks like a frog or fish), drums, and sand-blocks. Which is your child's favorite to play? First grade have been singing solo echos of "Kye Kye Kule" (pronounced 'Chay Chay Cool-Ay') and hearing different verses of "Old Joe Clark" - they even wanted to hear the gross verse! Second Grade

has been just starting to learn what rhythms look like and begun to read rhythm cards, as well as keeping the beat while they try to find who the Boss is in the Spy Game. Third Grade has learned the importance of 'FACE in the SPACE' and 'Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge' - these are both ways to remember the note names on the staff! Fourth Grade has been learning the states and their capitols with "Wakko's America" and learning to put together different rhythms with "My Heart Goes Thump" and "Old Tom". Fifth Grade has been spending time listening to many different versions of the Star Spangled Banner. Soon they will take a quiz to see if they know all the words of our National Anthem! They have also had a great start practicing for the 5th Grade Choir - I can't wait to hear them at the Winter Concert!

We are off to a great start in the Art Room! I was pleased to see many families at the Buckley School Open Houses. We started the year off drawing our "selfies". We took a look at the way artists have been drawing their own self-portraits for years with drawing tools and materials rather than a cell phone camera! Learning our rules, procedures, and expectations is an important part of our first several weeks of school. It helps us to do our best and use our time wisely when we come to art. If you have questions about what your students are doing in Art, feel free to contact me. It will be a wonderful year!



SCHOOLNURSE

A few reminders from the Health Office:

- 1) Please dress your child in layers for the fall weather. The children go out for recess daily and while it is chilly in the morning it is much warmer by noon.
- 2) If your child should need medication during school hours, please remember to get a medical authorization form signed by your child's physician. The doctor's office can fax it to the school nurse at 647-5007. Please review the health and illness guidelines in the Parent/Student Handbook.
- 3) Should your home, work or cell phone number change, please keep us updated so that we can contact you in the event of an emergency.
- 4) Remember that flip-flops, slides, high heels and sneakers with built in roller wheels are not allowed at Buckley school. Thank you for your assistance in keeping our children safe and healthy!

Stay Well, Mrs. Hussey

MEDIA CENTER

On October 14th, Winnie the Pooh celebrates his 80th birthday. A children's book character that endures and is loved for so long must be something special and Winnie-the-Pooh certainly is. Although, A.A. Milne first introduced Pooh in his poetry collection When We Were Very Young (1924). Winnie wasn't really born until he starred in his very first book, Winnie-the Pooh, which was published on October 14, 1926. His adventures with his friends Eeyore, Piglet and Tigger and his protector Christopher Robin continued in two more books by A.A. Milne Now We Are Six (1927) and The House at Pooh Corner (1928). In the 1960's Pooh and his friends were animated by Walt Disney and they have since been featured in dozens of movies, videos, easy-reader books, and even have their own attractions at Disneyland and Disney World. Here are several websites where you can find the hundred-acre- woods gang online:

A website about Winnie the Pooh and his friends, with lots of fun stuff like pictures, postcards, games, free email and more.

www.winnie-pooh.org/websites.htm

The official web site for Winnie the Pooh featuring all-new LEARNING ABC's and 123's...

www.winniethepooh.disney.com

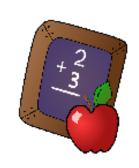
All about the Pooh movies, with graphics, clips, screensavers, games, sounds, links.

www.disney.co.uk/winnie-the-pooh/games-and-activities

Noreen Lake & Donna Samborski

Math Mornings

Join Lisa Miner, Numeracy Coach, at Buckey School, as you work together to explore and learn more about the strategies and models your child is learning in Math.



Learn Addition/Subtraction Strategies used in Gr. 1-3

Monday, October 19 9:00-10:00 in the Conference Room

Learn Mutiplication Strategies used in Grades 3-5

Monday, October 26 9:00-10:00 in the Conference Room

> Let's work together to help your child! Light snacks served.



Manchester Public Schools

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A Great Place to Grow and Explore

October 1, 2015

Dear Parent/Guardians.

At Buckley School, we have procedures for dropping off and picking up your child. The purpose of this letter is to remind everyone of these procedures and alert you to a necessary change.

If your child is in grades 3-5, please utilize the back parking lot via Barry Road for both drop-offs and pick-ups. As a guide for the back parking lot area off Barry Road, please follow the protocol outlined below:

• Please park on the right hand side. Please pull all the way down. After picking up your child, please make a loop to exit the parking lot. Please drive slowly and watch for children.

If your child is in grades K-2, I am asking that you utilize the front of the building specifically, the circle for drop-off and pick-up. Please remember not to double park your car in the circle during the morning or afternoon. If there are no spots available, please do not continue to move around the circle as this is dangerous with students getting into cars. Instead, please use the parking lot in the back of the building or off Barry Road. Please continue to use the protocol outlined below:

- Please park on the right hand side of the circle.
- Please **DO NOT** stop in the middle of the circle to drop-off your child. <u>Also, please do not park on the</u> inside of the circle
- Please walk your children to and from the building after parking your car.
- Please drive slowly and watch for children.

Please note that if you are picking up your kindergarten child, please do so by the upper playground, by the kindergarten doors.

In our continued effort to provide a structured and safe environment here at Buckley, please first stop by the main office when visiting and pick up a **Visitor Sticker**.

Also, if you are picking up your child early or are changing the normal routine with respect to drop-off/pick-up, please write a note to your child's teacher and the main office. This will insure that we have the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding your child.

Sincerely,

Matthew A. Daly

Principal

BUCKLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



ROBOTICS TEAM APPLICATION

4TH & 5TH GRADE STUDENTS ONLY

Buckley Robotics Team 2015-2016 Student Application

4th - 5th Grade Students Only

Thank you for your interest in Buckley's **FIRST** Elementary School Competitive Robotics Team. Our team is focused on designing, building, and programming a robot using the VEX IQ® platform.

What is VEX IQ® Robotics?

VEX IQ® is a robotics program for elementary students, which is designed to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based program. This program will build STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) skills that inspire innovation, and foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

What is a VEX IQ® Competition?

This year the competition challenge theme is called *Bank Shot*. In the VEX Robotics Competition, presented by Robotics Education & Competition Foundation (our grant sponsor), teams of students are tasked with designing and building a robot to play against other teams in a game-based engineering challenge.

Classroom STEM concepts are put to the test on the playing field as students learn lifelong skills in teamwork, leadership, communications and more. Our first tournament will be held on Saturday, January 23, 2016 at Manchester High School where we will compete against local and New England region teams.

What is the VEX IQ Challenge? This year the challenge is called Bank Shot. Bank Shot is played on a 4'x8' rectangular field configured as seen below.



There are three parts to the competition challenge:

- 1) **Teamwork Challenge** is where two robots compete as an alliance in 60-second teamwork matches, working collaboratively to score points.
- 2) The **Robot Skills Challenge** where one robot takes the field to score as many points as possible under driver control.
- 3) The **Programming Skills Challenge** where one robot scores as many points as possible autonomously, without any driver inputs.

The object of all three challenges in the game is to attain the highest score by Emptying Cutouts, Scoring Balls into the Scoring Zone and Goals, and by Parking Robots on the Ramp.

Download the Bank Shot App!





The Details:

There are a total of forty-four (44) Balls available as Scoring Objects in the game. There is one (1) Scoring Zone, one (1) Goal, one (1) Ramp, and sixteen (16) Cutouts on the field.

Scoring:

Each Ball Scored in the Scoring Zone 1 point
Each Emptied Cutout 1 point
Each Ball Scored in the Goal 3 points
Having One Robot Parked on the Ramp 10 points
Having Two Robots Parked on the Ramp 25 points

score points on a thematic playing surface, create an innovative solution to a problem as part of their Project. These three elements - the Robot Game, Project, and FLL Core Values - make up what we call our yearly Challenge.

For more information visit: http://www.vexrobotics.com

Interested in joining the team?

All students interested in participating in the Buckley Robotics Team will be required to:

- Fill out an application form (attached)
- Have good academic/behavior standing in their current class

The Buckley Robotics Team involves preparation prior to the start of the season, which kicks off in October 2015 and ends with a qualifying competition on January 23, 2016.

Buckley Robotics Team Student Application Form 2015-2016 Bank Shot

The goal of this application is to get to k now you better and to see if you are the right choice for the Robotics Team as this is a BIG COMMITMENT especially during the Robotic season.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Friday- October 2, 2015- Robotics Applications available to students
- Friday- October 9, 2015- All applications are due (turn into Miss Curtin/Coach) * I will not accept late applications
- Friday- October 16, 2015- The 10 students selected will be notified

Complete Steps 1-4

Step 1: Important Information Form

Step 2: Self Evaluation Form

Step 3: Typed Student Essay OR Hour of Code

Step 4: Miss Curtin will check with your teacher to make sure you're in good academic standing (classwork is getting done on time, homework is being turned in, and you show signs of having good character with your classmates)

I look forward to working with you and starting the first robotics team here at Buckley! Sincerely,

Miss Curtin

STEP 1 BUCKLEY ROBOTICS TEAM Student ApplicationImportant Information/Parent Permission

• Parents PLEASE <u>PRINT</u> NEATLY IN BLUE OR BLACK INK

Student's Name	
Current Teacher	
Address	
Parent's Name	
Parent's Email	
Home Phone	Cell Phone
•	nember of our schools <i>VEX IQ</i> ® robotics team, I aking a commitment to be part of this team. I
understand that my child mus	t maintain satisfactory behavior and academic grades
in order to be eligible to partic	cipate in the FLL program. Failure to attend Robotic
meetings during the team seas	son from Aug 28, 2015-December 2015 will result in
the child being asked to leave	the team.
Parent Signature	Date

• STUDENTS FILL OU'	<u> THE FOLI</u>	LOW	<u>ING</u>		
1. Do you have a computer	at home	Yes	No	PC	Mac
2. List all the computer ski	lls you have (all pro	ogram	s that yo	ou're familiar with
3. Are you involved with a			n scho	ool/outsi	de of school? For
example: band, football,					
Activity	What day/s of the week are you involved w				ou involved with
				it	
. Have you ever attended	a robotics can	np or	compe	etition?	Yes No
. If you answered yes, wh	en and where				
ll make a commitment to the	ne Robotics te	am if	chose	n and w	rill attend meetings
en scheduled. I will express	s good charact	ter wh	en att	ending 1	meetings (and
ng class) and show respect	, professional	ism, to	eamw	ork, lead	dership, and
ativity. If I cannot follow th	ne above rules	, I un	dersta	nd I may	y be asked to leave
team.		-		•	•
dent Signature				Date	

STEP 2

BUCKLEY ROBOTICS TEAM Student Application- Self Evaluation Form

Please answer this self-evaluation. You need to be as honest as possible so I can get to know you and see if you are the right candidate for the Buckley Robotics Team.

Self Evaluation: Please give yourself a ranking from 1-5

1=Never. 2=Rarely. 3=Sometimes. 4=Often. 5=Very Often/ Always

Skill	Ranking
Are you responsible?	
Are you honest?	
Are you self motivated?	
Are you able to work independently without fooling around?	
Can you take criticism (someone telling you your mistakes)?	
Do you work well in a team?	
Do you work well under pressure?	
Can you be trusted even when the teacher is not looking?	
Do you have good computer skills (PowerPoint, Word,	
Internet)?	
Do you write well?	
Can you commit to 1 day a week meetings and some working at	
home on assignments?	
Do you know how to use a camera and video camera?	
Do you draw well?	
Do you like painting?	
Do you have good organizational skills?	
Are you outgoing and willing to cheer for your team?	
Are you a good role model?	
Will you always try your best?	

Are there any skills you want Miss Curtin to know you have that will be important to the Robotics Team?

STEP 3

BUCKLEY ROBOTICS TEAM Student Application- Your Choice!!

Choose 1: Written Essay or Complete One Hour of Code

Written Essay

Being part of the VEX IQ® Robotics Team is to understand that this is a team effort and we must all work together to design, build, and program our robot. In 200-250 words write an essay explaining why you should be on the Buckley Robotics Team.

- Please include what special attributes and skills you would bring to this group.
- Explain why you think cooperation is important on this team.

Your essay can be hand written or typed and must have your name and teacher's name on it

OR

Hour of Code

Members of the team will be responsible for programming the robot using Code.

To practice and learn coding skills, you can complete an Hour of Code on

www.code.org

- 1. Once on the website click on: Learn an hour of Code with Anna and Elsa.
- 2. After your hour is completed you will receive a certificate. Print and attach to your robotics application.